

REMARKS

Claims 6-8 have been examined. Claims 14 and 15 have been added. Claims 6 and 8 have been amended. Reconsideration of the claims, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

Claims 6-8 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Weber. This rejection is respectfully traversed in part and overcome in part.

As now amended, independent claim 6 claims a beverage container that comprises a vessel having an interior that is adapted to hold a beverage. The vessel has a closed bottom end and an open top end, and the bottom end defines a generally hemispherical cavity that is fluidly sealed from the interior of the vessel. A generally hemispherical cooling element is provided that is configured to fit within the cavity. Further, the container includes a base that is configured to be operably coupled to the bottom end of the vessel and to at least partially enclose the cooling element within the cavity. A connector system is used to couple the vessel, the cooling element and the base together, and comprises a first threaded element and a second threaded element. The first threaded element is constructed of glass and the second threaded element is constructed of hard plastic. By using this combination of threaded elements, the components of the container may be screwed together without breaking the glass.

In contrast to the beverage container of claim 6, the Weber patent fails to describe a connector system where one threaded element comprises glass and another comprises hard plastic. Further, there is no discussion in Weber regarding use of such materials to prevent glass from breaking when screwed together. Hence, claim 6 as now amended is distinguishable, and it is respectfully requested that the section 102 rejection of claim 6 be withdrawn. Claims 7 and 8 depend from claim 6 and are distinguishable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated, or in the alternative under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Searle. The Searle patent fails to describe the use of threaded elements as well as the use of a glass and a hard plastic to construct them. Hence, claim 6 as amended is distinguishable over Searle.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

Claims 6-8 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith in view of Hymes. As just described, claim 6 has been amended to recite the use of a connector system with threaded elements constructed of glass and hard plastic. Since neither Smith nor Hymes teaches or suggests such a feature, claim 6 is distinguishable and in condition for allowance. Claims 7 and 8 depend from claim 6 and are distinguishable for at least the same reasons.

Added Claims

Claims 14 and 15 have been added and are similar to unamended claim 6 with the additional limitation of a connector system that is configured to couple the vessel, the cooling element and the base together. The connector system comprises a first threaded element and a second threaded element that are each configured with a certain number of threads so that the vessel, the cooling element and the base may be screwed and locked together using a single twist.

In contrast to the container of claims 14 and 15, none of the cited art teach the use of such a connection where, with a single twist, the components may be fully screwed together. Hence, claims 14 and 15 are distinguishable and in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

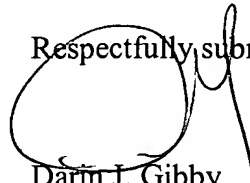
In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

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Amdt. dated March 25, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 24, 2005

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darin J. Gibby', is written over the typed name below.

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